

9/6/70

Cities Ask FBI for Bomb Data

OMAHA, Neb., Sept. 5—Officials of nine Midwestern cities have accused the Justice Department of withholding confidential information that might help them curb bombings and political terrorism.

Omaha Mayor Eugene A. Leahy said after a joint meeting of the city officials here Friday that several cases might have been more readily solved if they had fuller access to federal reports.

Leahy declined to elaborate, but the meeting he called reflected an undercurrent of dissatisfaction with the Justice Department and the FBI.

"It is imperative that there is a feeling of confidence and trust between federal and city government," Leahy said.

The mayors, police chiefs and prosecutors at the session, aimed at a common defense against bombings and terrorism, informally agreed to exchange both information and personnel, especially undercover investigators.

They also passed a resolution

calling for a meeting with Attorney General John N. Mitchell and other Justice Department officials in Washington as a first step in curtailing the violence.

Represented at the session were Omaha and Lincoln, Neb.; Denver, Colo.; Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn.; Tulsa, Okla.; Sioux City and Des Moines, Iowa, and Madison, Wis.

(A Justice Department spokesman in Washington said officials there would welcome a meeting "to make sure the lines of communication are open.")

(He said there had been some sharing of information compiled by federal officials as a result of court-authorized wiretaps and added that federal authorities try to make it a point to pass on immediately any information they get about possible bombings and violence that might cause deaths.)

William B. Randall of St. Paul, president of the National Association of District Attorneys, set the tone for the Omaha meeting by saying that the cities must band together "or the revolutionaries will win."

Touching on the apparent dissatisfaction with Washington, Mayor Charles Stenvig of Minneapolis said local police are sometimes left "with egg on their face" when the Justice Department announces civil-rights investigations of local police actions but then fails to announce its findings when complaints prove invalid.